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Stamas announces first meeting of Sportsmen's caucus

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus today held its first meeting and discussed ways to protect Michigan's outdoor heritage, Senator Tony Stamas (R-Midland) announced.

A bipartisan organization to protect the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers, the sportsmen's caucus has 87 members in the Michigan House and Senate, which makes it one of the largest bi-partisan caucuses in the Legislature.

Sportsmen in Michigan spend more than \$2.06 billion annually, creating \$133 million in state tax revenue. Sportsmen sustain 33,000 jobs for Michigan residents.

The organization is patterned after the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, which is the largest caucus on Capitol Hill.

"Outdoor recreation, whether it be hunting, fishing or trapping, is a vital part of the economy and everyday life for Northern Michigan", said Stamas. "I am happy this caucus has been formed to actively promote these issues. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the sporting community's rights are protected".

"The sporting community in Michigan should be excited about the establishment of the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus," said Brad Rowse, state caucus coordinator of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "With a strengthened voice created by the establishment of a sportsmen's caucus, over 1.7 million sportsmen and women throughout Michigan will now have a channel to proactively address their issues in the Legislature."

The caucus meetings will take place on a monthly basis and features speakers from various Michigan conservation and outdoor recreation organizations.

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